(c) what is the amount allocated for the purpose during the current Five Year Plan period; and

(d) to what extent the amount allocated in this Plan is less than that of allocated in the last Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) (a) There is no proposal from Government of Gujarat for increased Plan allocation for village and small industries (VSI) sector of which Small Scale Industries is one of the sub-sectors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Eighth Plan outlay for VSI sector in Gujarat is Rs. 435 crores.

(d) The Eighth Plan outlay is more than three times the Seventh Plan outlay of Rs. 130.23 crores.

Increase in Prices of Edible salt

1870. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep increase in the prices of edible salt in Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the abnormal increase in the sale prices of salt; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to contain the prices?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) A statement showing the Retail Prices of edible iodised salt from August, 1994 to August, 1995 at Delhi is enclosed *(see* below).

(b) and (c) There is no control of Govt. on the price, procurement and distribution of salt. The prices of salt vary as per market condition, increase in cost of production and transportation, etc. However, a watch is being maintained on the trend in prices of salt by Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Statement

Retail Prices of Edible Iodised salt in Delhi From August, 1994 to August, 1995.

Month	(Rs. Per kg.) Prices
August, 94	4.00
September,94	4.00
October, 94	4.00
November, 94	4.00
December, 94	4.00
January, 95	4.00
February, 95	4.00
March, 95	4.00
April, 95	4.00
May, 95	4.50
June, 95	4.50
July, 95	4.50
August, 95	4.50

Source: Delhi Administration.

Coal reserves in Madhya Pradesh

1871. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answers to Starred Question 14 and Unstarred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on 31st July, 1995 and state the total present estimated reserves of coal in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): As per assessment made by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the estimated reserves of coal in Madhya Predesh as on 1-1-1995 (down to a depth of 1200 metres) are 40766.69 million tonnes.

Strike by Indian Workers in Kuwait

1872. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of certain recent reports indicating that 600 Indian workers working for a Korean firm in Kuwait went on a strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;